

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel Claims 1 to 9 and 17 to 23, and amend the claims, as follows:

Claims 1-9 (Cancelled)

10. (Currently Amended) The method of attaching a fastener to a deformable metal panel as defined in Claim 9 24, wherein said method includes deforming said panel portions in said fastener grooves laterally to a greater extent as said panel portions approach said open end portions of said grooves, forming opposed wedge-shaped bottom walls in said panel portions engaging a bottom wall of said fastener grooves and said side_walls at said grooves.

11. (Currently Amended) The method of attaching a fastener to a deformable metal panel as defined in Claim 9 10, wherein said method includes deforming said bottom walls of said panel portions laterally from adjacent said mid-portion of said grooves, forming opposed wedge-shaped portions extending from adjacent said mid-portions of said grooves.

12. (Original) The method of attaching a fastener to a deformable metal panel as defined in Claim 10, wherein said method includes deforming said bottom walls of said panel portions laterally from a location spaced from said mid-portion of said grooves, forming opposed wedge-shaped portions adjacent said open end portions of said grooves.

13. (Currently Amended) The method of attaching a fastener to a deformable metal panel as defined in Claim 9 24, wherein at least one of said groove side_walls of each of said grooves is inclined inwardly, said method including forming said panel portion laterally beneath said inclined side_walls of said grooves.

14. (Currently Amended) A method of attaching a fastener to a deformable metal panel, said fastener having generally parallel channel-shaped grooves, each groove having a bottom wall, opposed side walls, a mid-portion and opposed open end portions, said method comprising:

locating said panel on a die member having spaced generally parallel projecting lips configured to be received in said fastener grooves said lips each including a mid-portion and opposed end portions and said mid-portion having a greater width than said end portions;

locating said fastener opposite said panel with said fastener grooves aligned with said die member lips;

driving said fastener against said panel, thereby driving said die member lips into said fastener grooves and deforming portions of said panel into said fastener grooves against said bottom walls of said grooves; and

said lips of said die member driving said panel portions in said fastener grooves and against said bottom wall of said grooves and longitudinally toward said opposed end portions of said lips and said open end portions of said grooves and laterally toward said side walls of said grooves adjacent said open end portions forming opposed generally wedge-shaped bottom walls in said panel portions engaging said bottom wall of said grooves.

15. (Original) The method of attaching a fastener to a deformable metal panel as defined in Claim 14, wherein said method includes deforming said bottom walls of said panel portions laterally from adjacent said mid-portion of said grooves, forming said opposed wedge-shaped portions in said bottom walls of said panel portions extending from adjacent said mid-portion of said grooves.

Claims 17-23 (Cancelled)

24. (New) A method of attaching a fastener to a deformable metal panel, said fastener having generally parallel channel-shaped groove, each groove having a bottom wall, opposed side walls, a mid-portion and opposed open end portions, said method comprising the following steps:

locating said panel on a die member including an end face, an opening through said end face and generally parallel lips adjacent said opening projecting from said end face, each of said lips including a contact face, a mid-portion having a width less than a width of said grooves and opposed end portions having a width less than said mid-portion;

locating said fastener opposite said panel with said fastener grooves aligned with said lips of said die member;

driving said fastener against said panel, thereby driving said lips of said die member against said panel and said lips driving portions of said panel into said grooves and against said bottom wall; and

further driving said contact face of said lips against said panel on said bottom wall of said grooves and said mid-portion of said lips deforming said panel longitudinally toward said open end portions of said grooves and laterally toward said side walls of said grooves.